

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the claims that were published in the PCT Application mentioned in the International Preliminary Report on Patentability:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus (~~20~~) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

tuning means (~~22~~) for tuning a channel frequency that provides emergency alert signals indicating an emergency event;

processing means (~~27~~) for enabling an alert output responsive to said emergency alert signals; and

a single user input button (~~30~~) for receiving tactile user inputs to control said emergency alert function, wherein said single user input button (~~30~~) is the only tactile user input means integral with said apparatus (~~20~~) that is capable of controlling said emergency alert function.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus (~~20~~) of claim 1, wherein said single user input button (~~30~~) includes:

a plurality of different states; and

said apparatus (~~20~~) performs one or more different operations responsive to each of said states based on user programming.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus (~~20~~) of claim 1, further comprising illuminating means (~~34~~) for illuminating said single user input button (~~30~~) based on a severity level of said emergency event.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus (~~20~~) of claim 3, wherein said illuminating means (~~31~~) illuminates said single user input button (~~30~~) using:

a first color if said severity level represents a first level;

a second color if said severity level represents a second level; and

a third color if said severity level represents a third level.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~(20)~~ of claim 4, wherein said first, second and third colors are each combined with a fourth color.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~(20)~~ of claim 5, wherein said illuminating means ~~(31)~~ illuminates said single user input button ~~(30)~~ using only said fourth color when said emergency alert function is not activated.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~(20)~~ of claim 3, wherein said illuminating means ~~(31)~~ illuminates said single user input button ~~(30)~~ using:

two colors if said severity level represents a first level;

three colors if said severity level represents a second level; and

four colors if said severity level represents a third level.

8. (currently amended) A method ~~(300)~~ for operating an apparatus having an emergency alert function, comprising:

tuning a channel frequency that provides emergency alert signals indicating an emergency event ~~(320)~~;

providing an alert output responsive to said emergency alert signals ~~(340)~~; and

receiving tactile user inputs to control said emergency alert function via a single user input button, wherein said single user input button is the only tactile user input means integral with said apparatus that is capable of controlling said emergency alert function ~~(340)~~.

9. (currently amended) The method ~~(300)~~ of claim 8, wherein said single user input button ~~(30)~~ includes a plurality of different states, and further comprised of:

performing one or more different operations responsive to each of said states based on user programming ~~(340)~~.

10. (currently amended) The method ~~(300)~~ of claim 8, further comprised of illuminating said single user input button based on a severity level of said emergency event ~~(340)~~.

11. (currently amended) The method ~~(300)~~ of claim 10, wherein said illuminating step ~~(340)~~ includes illuminating said single user input button using:

- a first color if said severity level represents a first level;
- a second color if said severity level represents a second level; and
- a third color if said severity level represents a third level.

12. (currently amended) The method ~~(300)~~ of claim 11, further comprised of combining each of said first, second and third colors with a fourth color.

13. (currently amended) The method ~~(300)~~ of claim 12, further comprised of illuminating said single user input button using only said fourth color when said emergency alert function is not activated.

14. (currently amended) The method ~~(300)~~ of claim 10, wherein said illuminating step ~~(340)~~ includes illuminating said single user input button using:

- two colors if said severity level represents a first level;
- three colors if said severity level represents a second level; and
- four colors if said severity level represents a third level.

15. (currently amended) A television signal receiver ~~(20)~~ having an emergency alert function, comprising:

- a tuner ~~(22)~~ operative to tune a channel frequency that provides emergency alert signals indicating an emergency event;

- a processor ~~(27)~~ operative to enable an alert output responsive to said emergency alert signals; and

- a single user input button ~~(30)~~ for receiving tactile user inputs to control said emergency alert function, wherein said single user input button ~~(30)~~ is the only tactile user input element integral with said television signal receiver ~~(20)~~ that is capable of controlling said emergency alert function.

16. (currently amended) The television signal receiver ~~(20)~~ of claim 15, wherein said single user input button ~~(30)~~ includes:

a plurality of different states; and

said television signal receiver ~~(20)~~ performs one or more different operations responsive to each of said states based on user programming.

17. (currently amended) The television signal receiver ~~(20)~~ of claim 15, further comprising a light (31) operative to illuminate said single user input button ~~(30)~~ based on a severity level of said emergency event.

18. (currently amended) The television signal receiver ~~(20)~~ of claim 17, wherein said light (31) illuminates said single user input button ~~(30)~~ using:

a first color if said severity level represents a first level;

a second color if said severity level represents a second level; and

a third color if said severity level represents a third level.

19. (currently amended) The television signal receiver ~~(20)~~ of claim 18, wherein said first, second and third colors are each combined with a fourth color.

20. (currently amended) The television signal receiver ~~(20)~~ of claim 19, wherein said light (31) illuminates said single user input button ~~(30)~~ using only said fourth color when said emergency alert function is not activated.

21. (currently amended) The television signal receiver ~~(20)~~ of claim 17, wherein said light ~~(31)~~ illuminates said single user input button ~~(30)~~ using:

two colors if said severity level represents a first level;

three colors if said severity level represents a second level; and

four colors if said severity level represents a third level.